



# Air Force Research Laboratory|AFRL

*Science and Technology for Tomorrow's Air and Space Force*



## **Success Story**

### **MUNITIONS DIRECTORATE'S SBIR MANAGER RECEIVES TIBBETTS AWARD**



Mr. Richard "Dick" Bixby, the Munitions Directorate's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program manager, recently received the United States Small Business Administration's highest national recognition for research and development in support of the SBIR program. The award, named for Mr. Roland Tibbetts who led the federal effort to create the SBIR program, marks the accomplishments of people and businesses that work with or on behalf of the SBIR program.



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### **Accomplishment**

As the directorate's SBIR focal point for 10 years, Mr. Bixby provided administrative oversight for more than \$100 million in SBIR resources, representing 10 to 12% of the directorate's total budget. Involved in many different activities, he brings a unique vision to the directorate's SBIR program. He understands not only the government's point of view, but also that of businesses, both large and small.

### **Background**

Mr. Bixby's leadership in the SBIR program allows the directorate to advance numerous enabling technologies that are important in the development of future munitions systems for the Air Force. These technologies range from material processing, explosives, fuzing, guidance, weapon effectiveness, and seeker development.

The success in developing innovative technology through SBIR projects makes them highly valued within the directorate. These projects are fundamental components of the directorate's mission to develop and transition affordable weapon technology.

Mr. Bixby's efforts helped position the directorate to provide a fully integrated weapon concept with options for enhancing the warhead package lethality based on innovations in material science. Enhancing the lethal package provides a unique national defense capability for systems like the Powered Low Cost Autonomous Attack System.

Munitions  
Awards and Recognition

### **Additional information**

To receive more information about this or other activities in the Air Force Research Laboratory, contact TECH CONNECT, AFRL/XPTC, (800) 203-6451 and you will be directed to the appropriate laboratory expert. (03-MN-01)